

comment, which I reproduced, that there was then "plenty of apparently suitable habitat" in the area. Following his discovery in 1989 that both sites at which the species had previously been recorded were being affected by man (*Scopus* 13: 90-97), and with the reformulation of the IUCN categories, the Sidamo Lark was classified as Endangered two years ago (Collar *et al.* 1994, *Birds to Watch* 2, which see also for the new categories).

It is encouraging to know that some of these human influences appear now to have ceased, but I cannot think that such news will make a difference to the 1994 classification of the species. This is, however, a notable instance of the difficulty of appropriate categorisation in the absence of data. If it is accepted that highly cryptic birds in relatively poorly known regions stand a reasonable chance of being found over much wider ranges than those reported, then the Sidamo Lark might better have been classified "Data Deficient", which stands outside the new threatened categories. However, given the propensity for birds in Ethiopia and Somalia to be confined to often inexplicably small ranges, the precautionary principle requires us to entertain the possibility that the entire range of the species may well not extend beyond the small area south of Negele in which it has so far been found. It therefore appears that Iain Robertson and I have been and remain in closer agreement over the threat status of the Sidamo Lark than he previously imagined.

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RANGE EXPANSION AND SUMMERING OF PALM WARBLER *DENDROICA*
PALMARUM IN VENEZUELA

On 29 June 1995, the first author observed a Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum* during an ornithological survey around the Mucubají Lake, Mérida State in Venezuela (08°48'N, 70°48'W), at an elevation of 3500 m. The bird was also seen by several bird watchers and a photographic record was taken. Only one individual was seen for a few minutes, feeding on the ground and continually wagging its tail. The area is open with very few trees, the dominant plant being *Espeletia* (*Espeletia* spp.).

The solid rufous cap and the combination of yellow undertail coverts, pale yellow throat and whitish, vaguely streaked underparts differentiates this species from any other migrant parulid. No resident species are similar in colour. This coloration is typical of breeding adult plumage and distinctive of the nominate subspecies *D. p. palmarum*. The Palm Warbler breeds in North America and winters on the Gulf and southern Atlantic U.S. coasts, in eastern Yucatan, and in the West

Indies; it has been occasionally recorded in Antioquia, Colombia, in October, and three times in Curaçao and Aruba in February, March and November (Curson *et al.* 1994, Voous 1983). The nominate subspecies breeds in the western part of the North American range.

It is well known that the Mucubají area and the Chama River Canyon in Mérida State are important routes for several species of northern migrants (Phelps 1961). Our June observation suggested that this individual stayed on the wintering grounds during the following summer. This is apparently rare in warblers. There is one record of Blackpoll Warbler *Dendroica striata* from Chile in June 1858 (Philippi 1940), and of Black and White Warbler *Mniotilta varia* and Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis* from the Netherlands Antilles in June (Voous 1983).

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HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THREATENED AND NEAR THREATENED ARGENTINIAN BIRDS FROM MUSEO PROVINCIAL DE CIENCIAS NATURALES "FLORENTINO AMEGHINO" OF SANTA FE, ARGENTINA

The Museo Provincial de Ciencias Naturales "Florentino Ameghino" in Santa Fe, Argentina, has a small but regionally important collection of 2300 bird specimens. It includes specimens of a number of species considered by Collar *et al.* (1992) to be threatened or near threatened, details of which are given below. Scientific nomenclature follows Altman & Swift (1993), English names Meyer de Schauensee (1982).

Threatened species

CROWNED EAGLE *Harpyhaliaetus coronatus*

Two specimens: MFA-ZV-113 male, Campo La Eugenia (Dpt. San Cristóbal, Prov. Santa Fe), 14 Jul 1957, R. Murnie coll. MFA-ZV-988